



GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS APPLYING TO ALL CRAFT, WHETHER RACING OR NOT

Sailing from GWSC is controlled by the Club and is subject to the Club's Rules and Byelaws, the Byelaws of Anglian Water and the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea <https://www.rya.org.uk/newsevents/e-newsletters/up-to-speed/Pages/understanding-colregs2.aspx>.

The decision to open or close the water for sailing is the responsibility of the Coxswain.

The decision to start, cancel, postpone or abandon racing is the responsibility of the Race Officer in consultation with the Coxswain.

The decision on which safety flags (see below) should be hoisted on the fuel shed is the responsibility of the Coxswain.

The helm of the craft is responsible for their personal safety and that of any others on the craft. It is the helm's decision to sail or not. In making their decision sailors must consider their fitness and that of their crews and craft for the expected weather conditions.




a) Insurance: All craft shall be covered by third-party insurance for claims up to £2 million arising in any one accident. All craft owners shall sign a certificate stating that they have such insurance. New members shall sign this undertaking before they are allocated a berth. Craft whose owners have not lodged this document in the Office may not be launched.

b) Personal Buoyancy: No-one is permitted on the water in any type of craft (dinghies, windsurfers, safety boats, or committee boats) without adequate personal buoyancy. Wet suits and dry suits are not deemed to be adequate buoyancy. Personal buoyancy to Specification BS EN ISO 12402 is advised. Craft carrying persons not wearing buoyancy considered adequate by safety personnel will be required to return to shore immediately. Where class rules permit the use of weight jackets, these must have the provision for immediate removal, and be worn over all other clothing, trapeze harnesses, and buoyancy aids.

c) Boat Buoyancy: Buoyancy chambers or other buoyancy equipment and their fastenings must be maintained at all times in good and effective condition and must comply with any class rules that specify minimum buoyancy requirements. Owners shall sign a certificate to this effect annually. New members shall sign before they are allowed a berth. Boats whose owners have not lodged such a certificate in the Office may not be launched. The Club may ban from the water any boat which they believe does not comply with this rule, and the owner may be required to provide independent evidence that any imperfections have been rectified before the boat is again launched. These provisions do not apply to keelboat tenders without masts.

d) Safety: The attention of sailors is drawn to the safety recommendations posted around the Club.

- Craft may be launched subject to restrictions indicated by the flag(s) displayed on the pole by the fuel shed. These flags are depicted here and on the website at <https://www.grafham.org/sailing-racing/safety-on-the-water.html>

 GWSC Safety Flags Oct 25, 2018		
Flag	Meaning	Commentary
	Closed/Closing No launching allowed	For boats afloat: With a single long sound from shore, the lake is closing in 30 minutes and you must be onshore within this period With repeated sounds, come ashore immediately
	Open with PROACTIVE safety cover	Water is being watched
	Open with REACTIVE safety cover	Water is not necessarily being watched You are advised to borrow a VHF handheld from the Coxswain
	Open with restrictions	See the monitor in the Cafe about the restrictions
	Open: experienced sailors only (wind at 13–28 knots)	Experienced means that, in the prevailing conditions, you can right your boat unaided and return to the club's shore
	Open: experienced wind-surfers only (wind at 28–35 knots)	Experienced means that, in the prevailing conditions, you can water-start your rig and return to the club's shore Water closed to dinghies, catamarans, and keelboats
	Open: wet or dry suit must be worn by sailors (except for those on cruisers)	1st November to 31st March, and when the water temperature is less than 5° C
	Open: blue-green algae present	Wear suitable protection and wash after sailing

Notes:
 Flags are displayed alone or with other flag(s) on the pole next to the fuel shed.
 A single short sound signal from shore means the flag has been changed.
 You also need to look at the map that shows the fixed buoys and the no-sailing areas.
 For your safety, you are advised to stay within sight of the Coxswain's lookout and wear a brightly coloured or fluorescent hat.

PROACTIVE safety cover
 Staff or a volunteer(s) will be watching the water from the shore or from a rib for anyone needing assistance.
 At times (eg, tractor in use, another emergency), the level of observation will be lower.

REACTIVE safety cover
 There is not necessarily anyone watching the water but someone is on site to assist if called.
 You are advised to borrow a VHF handheld from the Coxswain to radio for help.

- Water users have a responsibility to be vigilant at all times, to assist others in difficulties when this does not endanger themselves or their crews, and to take any necessary action to avoid close contact and collisions with other craft. This is particularly important when sailing high-performance craft that sail at significantly faster speeds than most club boats. Failure to do so on repeated occasions may result in exclusion from club sailing.
- Members and visitors sailing must comply with requests and advice from the safety boat service—eg, when to abandon their craft and be taken aboard a safety boat.

- The first priority of a safety boat is to rescue and return to the club premises sailors judged to be in danger, whether injured, sick, exhausted, or cold. Craft will be retrieved and returned to the club when, and if, practicable.
- Boats shall keep clear of a safety boat in close attendance to a craft or competitor in difficulty.

e) Permitted Sailing Times: All sailing shall cease 60 minutes before sunset or at such times defined by the Club. A list of permitted sailing times is displayed on the Club's website. The closing time is also displayed on the gate hut.

A long sound signal will be made from shore 30 minutes before closure of the water (and the red flag will be displayed) and a further long sound signal will be made to signify the final closure of the water. The Clubhouse and grounds will be locked 30 minutes after the water closes.

f) Sailing Area: Restrictions on sailing in certain areas are shown in a map available on the Club's website and from the Office.

g) Racing areas may be indicated on a map of the lake displayed near the signing-on sheets in the Cafe. Boats not racing shall keep clear of these area(s).

h) Sailing boats shall keep clear of boats actively engaged in fishing, avoiding an area extending 20 metres in any direction from them.